REMARKS

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

    Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,178,511 – Cohen et al. in view of US Patent 6,502,238 – Tran. These claims are considered to be patentable for the following reasons.

    Claim 1 recites a system for "use in a first application concurrently operating together with a plurality of network compatible applications" comprising "an entitlement processor for enabling user access to a first application of a plurality of concurrently operating applications in response to validation of user identification information; and a communication processor employed by said first application of said plurality of concurrently operating applications for intermittently communicating an activity indication to a managing application within a timeout window, said activity indication being generated in response to user action and being communicated sufficiently often to prevent an inactivity timeout of said first application being initiated during normal operation of said first application by said managing application in response to said timeout window being exceeded". These features are not shown or suggested in Cohen with Tran.

    The system of claim 1 includes "a communication processor employed by said first application of said plurality of concurrently operating applications for intermittently communicating an activity indication to a managing application within a timeout window". The "activity indication" is "communicated sufficiently often to prevent an inactivity timeout of said first application being initiated during **normal operation** of said first application by said managing application in response to said timeout window being exceeded". Cohen with Tran does not suggest such features. As recognized in the Rejection page 3, Cohen does not teach a system able to prevent "an inactivity timeout of said first application being initiated during **normal operation** of said first application". However, the Rejection on page 3 incorrectly states that Tran (with Cohen) teaches a system able to "prevent an inactivity timeout of said first application being initiated during **normal operation** of said first application" by a "managing application" in response to a "timeout window being exceeded".

    Tran in column 9 lines 14, 23 and lines 42-62 relied on in the Rejection describes a system for searching "its database to find the web page of the

network server" or a "network's general web site". In the "illustrative example, for IBM organization, LDAP begins the search for the userid at the first IBM location in the database (Austin) and continues sequentially through the different IBM locations... If one of the locations is unavailable (for example, the network server is down), the process continues to the next location after a timeout condition is reached. For illustrative purposes, this timeout condition may occur after 5 seconds or after 5 tries to access the server or network at a location is unsuccessful. The timeout condition is used to prevent the search from stalling at an unaccessible location. A check is made for the occurrence of a timeout so that the process continues smoothly" (Tran column 9 lines 43-57).

The Tran (with Cohen) timeout function is **fundamentally different** to the claimed system and comprises a different function employed in a different manner to achieve a different result that addresses a different problem. The re-try or timeout system of Tran, relied on in the Rejection, addresses an **abnormal** condition, specifically; "this timeout condition may occur after 5 seconds or after 5 tries to access the server or network at a location is **unsuccessful**" to "prevent the search from **stalling** at an **unaccessible** location" (Tran column 9 lines 52-56) and is not related to "**normal operation**" of a "first application" at all. In the Tran system, an LDAP compatible application searches for a "web page of the network server" or a "network's general web site" ("LDAP begins the search for the userid at the first IBM location in the database (Austin) and continues sequentially through the different IBM locations...timeout condition may occur after 5 seconds or after 5 tries" by the LDAP application "to access the server or network" Tran column 9 lines 45-55). Consequently, the time out condition occurs in response to a periodic clock measurement i.e., of "5 seconds" or a re-try count "after 5 tries" by the LDAP **application and independently of user initiated activity** and is NOT an indicator of "**activity**" but merely that a search by an LDAP application has timed out due to an **abnormal** (e.g. an "**unaccessible**" location) condition.

The timeout condition in Tran is generated even when there is no user activity in the LDAP application. Therefore, the Cohen with Tran system does not suggest a "first application" of a "plurality of concurrently operating applications for intermittently communicating an **activity** indication" generated "in response to **user action**" to "a managing application" to "prevent an inactivity timeout" of the "first application being initiated during **normal operation** of said first application". Further, Tran (with Cohen) fails to show or suggest generation of an "activity indication" in response "to **user action** and being communicated sufficiently often to

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prevent an inactivity timeout of said first application being initiated **during normal operation** of said first application by said managing application in response to said timeout window being exceeded". Also, since the Tran (with Cohen) timeout condition is generated by an application **independent** of user action, the Cohen with Tran system is incapable of "monitoring and controlling a duration of a **user session**" in contrast to the claimed arrangement.

The re-try or timeout system of Tran (with Cohen), relied on in the Rejection, addresses an **abnormal** condition, specifically, "this timeout condition may occur after 5 seconds or after 5 tries to access the server or network at a location is **unsuccessful**" to "prevent the search from **stalling** at an **unaccessible** location" (Tran column 9 lines 52-56) and is not related to "**normal operation**" of a "first application". In contrast in the claimed arrangement, a "first application" of a "plurality of concurrently operating applications" intermittently communicates "an **activity indication**" generated "in response to **user action**" to "prevent an **inactivity timeout**" of the "first application being initiated" during "normal operation of said first application" in response to the "timeout window being exceeded". The communicated "activity indication" is used to identify a "**normal**" condition of user inactivity in employing an application whereas the Cohen with Tran system identifies a purely **abnormal** condition comprising a failure circumstance. Further, incorporating the re-try timeout mechanism of Tran into the Single Sign On system of Cohen as suggested in the Rejection results in a system for detecting an **abnormal** condition during user Logon and initiates a timeout "after 5 seconds or after 5 tries" for example, that are "unsuccessful" in accessing a server or network that can only detect a **failure condition**. This combined system is incapable of preventing "**inactivity timeout**" of a "first application being initiated" in response to user **inactivity**.

The re-try timeout mechanism of Cohen with Tran addresses the problem of managing an **abnormal** condition and detecting a **failure condition** during user Logon by initiating a timeout condition "after 5 seconds or after 5 tries" that are "unsuccessful" in accessing a server or network, for example, (Tran column 9 lines 52-56) and does not recognize, contemplate or address the problems of application **inactivity** management under "**normal**" operating conditions. Therefore, Cohen with Tran provides no problem recognition, motivation, or other reason for incorporating the claimed features. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

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Dependent claim 2 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 2 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen with Tran does not show or suggest use of an "intermittently communicated activity indication" that "prevents an **inactivity** timeout of said plurality of concurrently operating applications of a particular **user initiated session**" (of potentially multiple sessions operating on the computer). As previously explained in connection with claim 1, Cohen with Tran fails to teach or suggest "a managing application" for initiating "an **inactivity** timeout" of a "plurality of concurrently operating applications of a particular **user initiated session**" in "response to lack of "**user action**". The Cohen with Tran timeout operates independently of an inactivity indication generated due to lack of "user action". Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 3 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 3 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen with Tran does not show or suggest use of a "communication processor" that "stores a plurality of activity indications and sends said plurality of **activity** indications as a **batch** to said managing application". Contrary to the Rejection statement on page 4, Cohen (with Tran) in column 6 lines 38-59 does not mention a "batch" mode at all and neither reference alone or together suggests generating an "activity indication" in response "to **user action** and being communicated sufficiently often to prevent an inactivity timeout of said first application being initiated during **normal** operation". Neither reference alone or together provides a 35 USC 112 compliant enabling description or suggestion of such a "batch" mode. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 4 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 4 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen with Tran does not show or suggest "said normal operation comprises application operation **exclusive** of **abnormal** operation comprising an application **failure** condition and said user action comprises at least one of, (a) keyboard activity, (b) mouse activity, (c) other data entry device activity and (d) another user initiated PC application operation activity". As previously explained, the Tran (with Cohen) system is responsive to an **abnormal** condition, specifically, "this timeout condition may occur after 5 seconds or after 5 tries to access the server or network at a location is **unsuccessful**" to "prevent the search from **stalling** at an **unaccessible** location" (Tran column 9 lines 52-56) and is not related to "**normal operation**" and is also independent of **user** action. Cohen in column 6 and column 10 or elsewhere with

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Tran fails to suggest "intermittently" communicating an "activity indication to said managing application in response to a **user action**" at all. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 5 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 5 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen with Tran does not show or suggest a system in which the "first application and said managing application reside in the same PC" and "said **activity** indication notifies said managing application of activity by said first application and includes one or more of, (a) a session identifier for identifying a particular user initiated session, (b) a URL to be contacted if said activity notification is not successful, (c) an identification of a type of event preventing said activity notification from being successful". Cohen (in column 5 line 30 to column 6 line 7 relied on) with Tran fails to suggest an "activity indication" that "notifies" a "managing application of activity by said first application and includes one or more of, (a) a **session identifier** for identifying a particular user initiated session, (b) a URL-to be contacted if said activity notification is not successful, (c) an identification of a **type of event** preventing said activity notification from being successful". Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 6 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 6 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen (in column 5 line 30 to column 6 line 7 relied on in the Rejection) with Tran does not show or suggest a system in which a "communication processor intermittently communicates **activity** indications to said managing application using a plurality of different commands including an activity notification command and a command involving at least one of, (a) determining a user operation session identifier from said managing application and (b) sending a URL to said managing application". Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 7 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 7 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen with Tran does not show or suggest a system in which a "communication processor communicates to said managing application a request to receive an **activity** indication associated with said first application and maintained by said managing application, said activity indication indicating time since the last activity update". The Cohen with Tran re-try timeout mechanism is **independent** of **user** action since an LDAP

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application initiates a timeout condition "after 5 seconds or after 5 tries" that are "unsuccessful" in accessing a server or network, for example, (Tran column 9 lines 52-56) independently of user activity. Cohen with Tran fails to suggest a "communication processor" that "communicates to said managing application a **request to receive an activity indication** associated with said first application and maintained by said managing application, said activity indication indicating time since the last activity update". Cohen with Tran fails to suggest use of a centralized "managing application" for activity management at all, does not contemplate such a feature and is incapable of user based activity management. Cohen column 8 lines 45-67 relied on in the Rejection fails to suggest such features. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 8 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 8 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen with Tran does not show or suggest a system in which "individual applications of said plurality of concurrently operating applications independently intermittently communicate an **activity** indication to said managing application and said communication processor communicates with a browser application providing a user interface display permitting user entry of identification information for validation by said entitlement processor". Cohen in columns 6 and 7 and Figure 5 relied on in the Rejection, with Tran, fails to suggest "**individual applications** of said plurality of concurrently operating applications" that "**independently** intermittently communicate an **activity** indication to said managing application". Cohen with Tran fails to suggest use of a centralized "managing application" for activity management at all. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 8 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 9 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 9 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen with Tran does not show or suggest a system in which "said communication processor communicates a time-out threshold value comprising said timeout window to said managing application". Cohen in column 11, with Tran, fails to suggest a "communication processor" that "communicates a **time-out threshold value** comprising said timeout window to said managing application" for user responsive activity management. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

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Independent claim 10 recites a system for "use by a managing application supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications" comprising "an input processor for intermittently receiving activity indications from a plurality of concurrently operating applications, an individual activity indication being generated in response to user action; an activity monitor for updating individual activity status indicators, corresponding to said plurality of concurrently operating applications, in response to said received activity indications; a comparator for comparing individual activity status indicators with corresponding time-out threshold values to identify an application time-out event indicated by a status indicator exceeding said time-out threshold and occurring during normal operation of an application; and a communication processor for communicating notice of said application time-out event to one of said plurality of concurrently operating applications". These features are not shown or suggested in Cohen with Tran. Independent claim 10 is considered to be patentable for reasons given in connection with claim 1 and other preceding claims.

Claim 10 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen with Tran does not show or suggest a system used "by a managing application" involving "intermittently receiving **activity** indications from a plurality of concurrently operating applications, an individual activity indication being generated in response to **user action**" and including an "activity monitor for updating individual activity status indicators, corresponding to said plurality of concurrently operating applications, in response to said received activity indications". Cohen in column 8 and Figure 5 relied on in the Rejection, with Tran, fails to suggest "a system used "by a managing application" involving "intermittently receiving activity indications from a plurality of concurrently operating applications and "an individual activity indication being generated in response to user action" and including an "activity monitor for **updating individual activity status indicators**, corresponding to said plurality of concurrently operating applications, in response to said received activity indications". Cohen with Tran fails to suggest "a comparator for comparing individual" user responsive "**activity** status indicators with **corresponding** time-out threshold values to identify an application time-out event indicated by a status indicator exceeding said time-out threshold and occurring during **normal operation** of an application; and a communication processor for communicating notice of said application time-out event to one of said plurality of concurrently operating applications". Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 10 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

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   Dependent claim 11 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 10 and for reasons given in connection with claim 10 and claim 4. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 11 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

   Dependent claim 12 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 10. Claim 12 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen, in column 11 relied on or elsewhere, with Tran, does not show or suggest a system in which "an **activity** status indicator comprises a time indication identifying when activity of a particular application was last reported, and said time-out threshold comprises a predetermined time duration and said managing application determines said particular application to be inactive if said time indication exceeds said time-out threshold". Cohen with Tran fails to suggest communication of "an activity status indicator" that comprises a "time indication identifying when **activity** of a particular application was **last reported**, and said time-out threshold comprises a predetermined time duration and said managing application determines said particular application to be inactive if said time indication exceeds said time-out threshold". Cohen with Tran fails to suggest use of a centralized "managing application" for activity management, or any ability (or any suggestion) to process user responsive **activity** indications for **individual** executable applications at all. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 12 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

   Dependent claim 13 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 10 and for reasons given in connection with claim 10 and claim 6. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 13 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

   Dependent claim 14 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 10. Claim 14 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen in column 6 lines 1-7 relied or elsewhere, with Tran, does not show or suggest a feature combination in which "said communication processor communicates **notice** of said application time-out event to applications of said plurality of concurrently operating applications that have previously requested a notification of session termination". Cohen with Tran fails to suggest communication of "notice of said application time-out event to applications of said plurality of concurrently operating applications that have previously requested a notification of session termination". Cohen with Tran fails to suggest use of a centralized "managing application" for activity management, or any ability (or any suggestion) to process user responsive

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activity indications, for individual executable applications, at all. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 14 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 15 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 10. Claim 15 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen with Tran does not show or suggest a system in which "said communication processor communicates notice of said application time-out event in response to at least one condition of, (a) a received command requesting notification and (b) a received communication from an application session having previously produced a time-out event and (c) automatically upon generation of said time-out event". Cohen in column 5 line 59 to column 6 line7 or elsewhere relied on, with Tran, fails to suggest communication of "notice of said application time-out event" resulting from user inactivity in "response to at least one condition of, (a) a received command requesting notification and (b) a received communication from an application session having previously produced a time-out event and (c) automatically upon generation of said time-out event". Cohen with Tran fails to suggest use of a centralized "managing application" for communication of "notice of said application time-out event" based on user inactivity in an application. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 15 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 16 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 10 and for reasons given in connection with claim 10 and claim 5. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 16 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 17 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 10. Claim 17 is also considered to be patentable because Cohen with Tran does not show or suggest a system in which "said corresponding time-out threshold values comprise a common timeout period for said plurality of concurrently operating applications". Cohen, in column 11 relied on or elsewhere, with Tran, fails to suggest a system in which "said corresponding time-out threshold values" comprise a "common timeout period for said plurality of concurrently operating applications" for use in user responsive activity management. Cohen with Tran fails to suggest use of a centralized "managing application" employing "a common timeout period for said plurality of concurrently operating applications" for executable application activity management at all. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 17 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

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Dependent claim 18 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 10 for reasons given in connection with previous claims.

Independent claim 19 recites a system "supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications comprising "a browser application providing a user interface display permitting user entry of identification information and commands for a plurality of Internet compatible applications; and a managing application for receiving activity indications from a plurality of concurrently operating applications, an individual activity indication being generated in response to user action, said plurality of concurrently operating applications being initiated by user commands via said browser user interface, said received activity indications being provided by individual applications sufficiently frequently to prevent an inactivity timeout of said individual applications and during normal operation of an individual application". Claim 19 is considered to be patentable for reasons given in connection with claims 1, 4 and 10. Contrary to the Rejection statement on page 6 Cohen in Column 6 line 19 et seq. and Figure 5 does not mention an Internet compatible browser Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 19 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 20 and 21 are considered to be patentable based on their dependence on claim 19 and because of the additional feature combinations that they incorporate and for reasons given in connection with previous claims

Independent method claims 22 and 23 mirror apparatus claims 10 and 1 respectively and are considered to be patentable for the same reasons.
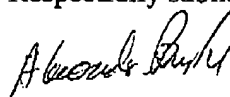
Independent method claim 24 is considered to be patentable for reasons given in connection with claims 1 and 10 and for additional reasons. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested

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       In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

[signature]

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